

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/750,803

Examiner

M Rachuba

Applicant(s)

MEMMELAAR ET AL.

Art Unit

3723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 05 July 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-88 and 94-118.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not disclose or fairly teach a platform having an elongated top surface for supporting the work piece substantially adjacent to the working surface and a front surface with a plurality of lateral grooves for receiving the raised areas on the working surface such that movement of the platform toward the working surface into a working area adjacent the grinding wheel enables the raised areas to pass into the lateral grooves and grind the work piece; where first means for supporting the work piece and moving the work piece laterally toward the grinding wheel into a working area adjacent the grinding wheel for grinding the work piece comprises a platform as disclosed on pages of applicant's specification; a grinding wheel; a support for holding the work piece and moving the work piece laterally toward the grinding wheel into a working area adjacent the grinding wheel for grinding the work piece; a first spindle and collet positioned in front of the working area for rotating the work piece and for moving the work piece one or both of forwardly and backwardly through the working area; a spool for holding wire stock; a gripper for pulling a length of the wire stock from the spool and transmitting the length of wire stock through the first spindle and collet; a cutter for cutting the length of wire stock to provide the work piece; a second spindle and collet positioned behind the working area for rotating the work piece and moving the work piece one or both of forwardly and backwardly through the working area independently of the moving by the first spindle and collet. The closest prior art, to Talalay et al, 4,271,639 or to Mills, 3,479,773, does not disclose the claimed support, or the claimed

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combination of a grinding wheel, support, first spindle and collet, spool and gripper, or the same combination with a second spindle and collet operable independently of the first spindle and collet. '639 does not disclose a platform having grooves for receiving raised areas of the grinding wheel, or the combination as claimed. '773 does not disclose the combination of first and second spindles and collets where the second spindle and collet moves independently of the first spindle and collet.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

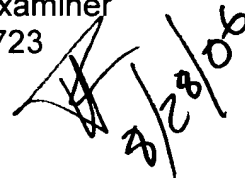
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M Rachuba whose telephone number is 571-272-4493. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail can be reached on 571-272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

M Rachuba
Primary Examiner
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Handwritten signature and date. The signature is a stylized, cursive mark. To its right, the date "2/28/06" is written vertically.